



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



Regular season play ends

Sister Infantry teams meet in final league tilt

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Fort Riley Post

Child care needs increasing

Post could use up to 60 more Family Care Providers

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Friday, March 3, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

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Around the Army

Fort Benning:

The Bayonet reported Feb. 10 that the Board of Directors for the Maneuver Center of Excellence met on post the previous week as part of the ongoing efforts associated with the movement of the Armor School.

Col. Frank Harman, the Infantry Futures director, said the board is the policy-making body that will work on the MCOE's objectives and purpose.

The MCOE's mission will be to provide the nation with the world's best-trained Infantry, Armor and Cavalry Soldiers, provide a power projection platform capable of deploying and redeploying Soldiers, civilians and units on short notice anywhere in the world and define required capabilities for Infantry, Armor and Cavalry to meet the needs of the future force.

For more about this story and other Fort Benning, Ga., news, visit www.thebayonet.com on the Web.

Fort Hood:

The Sentinel reported Feb. 2 that the 4th Infantry Division had opened a new video-conferencing lounge Jan. 27 for use by families of deployed Soldiers.

The lounge is part of "Operation in Touch," which emphasizes family members having opportunities to see and talk to their deployed Soldiers, according to the division's commanding general.

Families can access the VTC with an Internet-connected computer, an AKO account and a Web camera.

For more on this story and other Fort Hood, Texas, news, visit www.militarynews.com/sentinel on the Web.

Germany:

The European Stars and Stripes reported March 2 that the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team was scheduled to start its mission-rehearsal in preparation for this year's deployment to Iraq.

The 2nd BCT Soldiers, who have trained at Grafenwöhr for the past few weeks, were officially notified Feb. 27 about the Iraq deployment, although the Soldiers have been aware of it for some time.

The exercise, which runs until March 12, will involve 3,300 combat team Soldiers and about 1,000 role players, including German civilians and Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit www.europe.com on the Web.

Around Fort Riley

Soldier dies

A memorial service for Pfc. Derrick A. Hinely, Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, is scheduled for 2 p.m. March 8 in Morris Hill Chapel.

Hinely died as the result of a vehicle accident Feb. 10 in Braxton County, W. Va.

Engineers face restructuring

Fort Riley PAO

The 1st Engineer Battalion will restructure its companies effective March 16. This is part of the Corps of Engineers restructuring plan for engineer forces Army-wide.

The battalion last went through restructuring in 1992 when it

retired Companies D and E as part of the Engineer Restructuring Initiative. The battalion is part of the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

"During the battalion's 160 years of continuous service to the Army, it has reorganized scores of times," said Lt. Col. David Theisen, battalion commander. "During World War II, the battalion



reorganized five times from 1939 to 1945. Change and adaptation is a part of our past and will continue to be a part of our

future."

The 1st Eng. Bn., the Army's oldest engineer battalion, will increase its size by adding an additional company of support Soldiers as well as reconfiguring its line companies. The battalion will transition into a modular force as part of the Army's campaign plan that allows tailored

engineer capabilities to "be at the right place, right time and right mission," Theisen said.

Company A will retire its colors and reactivate as the 111th Sapper Company. Company B will reflag as the 41st Mobility Augmentation Company. Company C will retire its colors and

See Engineers, Page 2

Filling, waiting

Unit poised to begin squad drills

By Amanda Kim Stairrett

Staff writer

Four months ago, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, didn't exist. Now, Lt. Col. Ralph Kauzlarich, commander of the "Rangers," says the company is "minimally manned" but up and running.

Co. A is the only one of the battalion's five companies that is manned, but Company B is "well on its way," Kauzlarich said. Minimally manned means the company has enough Soldiers to effectively train in squads, it won't begin training them until the last week of March. As more Soldiers arrive, the company plans to increase training to platoon level and eventually to company level.

The 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., has an authorized strength of 682, according to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command. Co. A has an assigned strength of 125, Kauzlarich said.

Battalion to fill companies one by one

The battalion's companies will be filled one at a time, and the rifle squads will be filled to near capacity. Each rifle company has nine rifle squads, which means each company will initially be short some Soldiers. They will remain short-handed until the battalion receives the Army's remaining push to fill to the authorized strength, Kauzlarich said.

Capt. Scott Smith, Co. A commander, said his Soldiers were "chomping at the bit" to start training. Though it is minimally manned, the company has not received

See Company A, Page 2



Pfc. Scott Cavalli, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., hands a clip to a 4th IBCT Soldier Feb. 14. Co. A Soldiers were manning the range where new 4th IBCT Soldiers were practicing short-range marksmanship.

Post/Stairrett

Defense lawyers review decision

Judge blocks new civilian personnel system's start

By Donna Miles

AFPS

WASHINGTON — Defense Department attorneys are reviewing a federal judge's decision Feb. 27 to block a new civilian personnel system to determine their next course of action, said Joyce Frank, system spokesperson.

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan ruled that provisions of the new National Security Personnel System would fail to protect civilian employees' ability to bargain collectively.

These provisions pertain to labor relations, collective bargaining, independent third-party review, adverse actions and the National Security Labor Relations Board, DoD's proposed internal

See Ruling, Page 2

Soldiers charged in range shooting

Fort Riley PAO

Charges have been preferred under the Uniform Code of Military Justice against two Fort Riley Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry. They were involved in an incident that led to the death of Pfc. Donald E. Compton on Jan. 25.

Spc. James K. Tilley has been charged with involuntary manslaughter, dereliction of duty and negligent discharge of a firearm.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy L. Muntz has been charged with dereliction of duty.

Compton, who was a member of Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., died when he was shot during a training exercise on Range 9 at Fort Riley.

Compton was taken to Irwin Army Community Hospital by ambulance and was pronounced dead at the hospital. He was assigned to Fort Riley in March 2005 as an infantryman.

The charges on these Soldiers are accusations, and they are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Soldiers 'crawl' through exercise

Support battalion begins early, basic convoy training

By Amanda Kim Stairrett

Staff writer

Some Soldiers at Fort Riley crawled through convoy training Feb. 22.

Soldiers of the 610th Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, are in what battalion commander Lt. Col. Robert Weaver calls the "crawl phase" of that training. He refers to the training in that manner because his Soldiers are just learning how to think, how to plan and how to react during convoys.

"They have to get so it's second nature to all of them," Weaver said.

Six "Humvees" carrying Soldiers rolled out Feb. 22 to practice convoy scenarios northeast of the battalion headquarters located on the northernmost portion of Custer Hill.

This was the first time a lot of the 610th BSB's Soldiers participated in this kind of training since basic or advanced individual training, Weaver said. When they conduct this training again at the end of March or the beginning of April, it will be some of the most realistic training for these Soldiers, he added.

"But, we haven't gotten there yet," Weaver said.

For now, convoy training is

about the thought process and working out the kinks and making sure the Soldiers know their roles.

The convoy training transpired on a six- to eight-mile route to and from the 610th BSB motor pool. Soldiers encountered an ambush by three or four opposing forces who had simulators to mimic the noise and effects of a machine gun being fired at them and an improvised explosive device simulator filled with talcum powder.

The attackers took out the convoy's commander during the training, and a Soldier had to step up and make decisions, Weaver said.

Pvts. Santos Lainez and Corey

Love played the roles of opposing forces setting off an IED. The two set up a decoy IED with rocks and grass and set up the simulator 20 feet farther down the road. Lainez, who wore a red and white head wrap, kicked up some dirt to give clues that something was out of the ordinary.

Weaver said the Soldiers were trained to recognize these signs and spot the IED before it exploded.

Lainez and Love serve in Company A, the unit that manned that day's convoy training. Neither had played roles as opposing forces before. Both said they

See Convoy, Page 9

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





Post, Army news briefly

Corrections:

In the Feb. 24 issue of the Post, Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Powell's rank was reported incorrectly.

In the Feb. 16 issue, the Post erroneously reported that the 300th Military Police Company redeployment ceremony had taken place in Hangar 817. It took place at King Field House.

The Post regrets these errors.

Soldiers help remodel center

Seven 648th Area Support Group Soldiers stationed at Fort Riley helped with remodeling the Ogden Youth Center Feb. 23. The Soldiers worked with about 15 teenagers, replacing ceiling tiles, moving furniture, tearing up old carpet and preparing the youth center for a face lift.

The Soldiers went out of their way to demonstrate how leadership, teamwork and enthusiasm can get a lot done in a short amount of time. The kids joined in and in no time things were starting to look up for the youth center.

Spc. Brian Ray took the lead on this project by helping the kids and finding ways to make ceiling tiles fit in the most difficult spaces.

Army offers \$1,000 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for indecent assault on a Soldier.

The incident occurred between 11 p.m. Feb. 7 and 1 a.m. Feb. 8 when an unknown person entered Building 8018 on Fort Riley and indecently assaulted a Soldier living on the second floor of the building.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call Special Agent Emey Brantley at the Fort Riley CID office, (785) 239-3931, or the Fort Riley military police at (785) 239-6767.

BOSS plans fashion show

Fort Riley's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program will host a fashion show at 7 p.m. April 22 at the Marriott Convention Center in Junction City, Kan.

Fashions that will be shown include designs by students at Kansas State University and from among items sold at local trendy fashion stores in the area.

The cost is \$10 per person in advance.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the BOSS president at (785) 239-8147 or the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office at (785) 239-5614.

Women's Month observation set

The 24th Infantry Division (Mech) Equal Opportunity Office will sponsor Fort Riley's Women's History Month observance from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. March 22 at Riley's Conference Center.

The theme for this celebration is "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams."

The guest speaker will be Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney, deputy director of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

The program is free and open to all Soldiers, their families, civilian employees and the surrounding communities.

For more information, contact a brigade equal opportunity advisor or the division EO office at 239-8433.

Co. A

continued from page 1

all its weapons and equipment. Smith said his company has received vehicles and some communications equipment, but the majority of the gear has not arrived.

To make up for that in the meantime, the company borrows equipment as needed.

Since January, the company has been focusing on establishing itself and its systems. Soldiers are attending combat lifesaver school, drivers training and combatatives classes. Those not in classes are working on ranges, where new 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers go for marksmanship training and to conduct battle drill training in accordance with the battalion's Tactical Standard Operating Procedures.

Squad training begins this month

When Co. A squad training begins in March, squad and team leaders will participate in a week-long course. The company will then conduct a weapons break-in and machine gun course.

Squad movement will be the focus during the second week of April, before the focus shifts to battle drills, tactics, techniques and procedures training. In the last full week of May, Soldiers will participate in Squad External Evaluations.

Like the rest of the 4th IBCT, most of Co. A's Soldiers are straight from advanced individual training. Smith said brigade leaders advised subordinate unit commanders they would have to grow many of their squad and team leaders from within. Many of the team leaders have no more than eight months in the Army, Smith said.

Smith arrived at Fort Riley in mid-2004 from the Infantry Captain Career Course. He served as a platoon officer in the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) G3 office before taking command of the "Rangers."

Smith said that the "Rangers" were stepping up to the challenge of leadership.

Given that many of our team leaders are right out of basic, they are struggling with peer leadership, which is often the toughest to do, and are excelling," he said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at amanda.kim.stairrett@us.army.mil or 239-3977.

Ruling

continued from page 1

labor relations panel, the 77-page decision noted.

The American Federation of Government Employees and 12 other labor unions filed a lawsuit in February 2005 challenging the proposed system.

NSPS is one of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's key initiatives designed to transform DoD operations to better meet 21st-century needs. It is designed to replace an outdated, 50-year-old civilian personnel management system that had rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance.

The new program, in development since 2003, seeks to replace the current general-schedule personnel ranking system with broad pay bands.

DoD and the Office of Personnel Management are partnering to establish the system, which eventually could affect more than 650,000 DoD civilian employees.

Engineers

continued from page 1

reflag as the 72nd Mobility Augmentation Company.

Companies A, B and C will case their colors and reflag under new unit designations at a ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. March 15 at Cavalry Parade Field.

In addition, Headquarters and Headquarters Company will become Headquarters Support Company, 1st Eng. Bn. A new company, the Forward Support Company, will stand up during the ceremony.

The 1st Eng. Bn. will remain at Fort Riley as a modular unit and continue to train for future engineering missions as it builds up its numbers, Theisen said.



Post/Stairrett

Staff Sgt. John Kirby and other Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., leaders watch over new 4th IBCT Soldiers as they practice short-range marksmanship Feb. 14. Co. A ran the range that day.



Post/Stairrett

Pvt. Bryce Ross, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., sets up a new target Feb. 14 on a range where new 4th IBCT Soldiers were practicing short-range marksmanship.



Post/Stairrett

Pvt. Jason Kouis tears used targets off wooden stakes Feb. 14 at the range he and other Co. A, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., Soldiers manned that day.

FELDKAMPS HOME FURNISHING

4 x 11"

4x11 RED Feldkamps





DoD launches campaign

Department's education effort attacks home violence

By Sara Wood
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department launched a national program Feb. 23 to increase awareness among servicemembers and their families about domestic violence.

DoD is partnering with the National Domestic Violence Hotline for the campaign, which is themed, "Take a stand against domestic violence."

The campaign is designed as an intervention message to educate servicemembers and their families about domestic violence and connect them to the 24-hour-a-day hotline, said Gail McGinn, who is performing the duties of the principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"It is an effort to focus the whole country on domestic violence issues," McGinn said. "We want to make sure that people have the opportunity to stop and think about domestic violence and highlight that as an issue in society as well as in the military."

Educational materials about domestic violence will be distributed at military installations and in key public places in surrounding civilian communities.

The campaign will include public service announcements in military media outlets.

"We're hoping that more victims of domestic violence will make themselves known to us so

Need to call for help?

Fort Riley domestic violence and sexual assault response line (24 hours) — (785) 307-1373
Fort Riley Victim Advocate Program — (785) 239-9435
Chaplains — (785) 239-4357
Irwin Army Community Hospital emergency room — (785) 239-7777
Military Police (785) 239-MPMP (6767)
Local Police (on and off post) — 911

For confidential, free services, including safe shelter, call The Crisis Center, Inc. (24 hours) — (800) 727-2785
Kansas Statewide Hotline — 1-888-END-ABUSE (363-2287)
National Domestic Violence Hotline — 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

that we can provide assistance," McGinn said.

"We're also hoping that by raising the visibility of the issue, we help people to reconsider their behavior and actually be more willing to report domestic violence," she said.

Domestic violence is a significant issue in DoD, as it is in society as a whole, McGinn said.

The department already has an active program to address the problem, including support and counseling services, she said.

A task force has studied the issue and made recommendations about how to improve that program.

As a result of those recommendations, DoD has revised some of its policies and put new training programs in place, she said.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline offers access to

domestic violence programs in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The hotline provides crisis intervention, information and referral to victims of domestic violence and their friends and families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in more than 140 languages, with a teletypewriter line available for the disabled.

The hotline's phone number is (800) 799-SAFE (7233), and the TTY line is (800) 787-3224.

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE &
LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1cd.5 PrairieHawking MarTF

STANDARD PLUMBING
2 x 5"
Black Only
2X5 Stand Plumb

PATRICIA'S UNDERCOVER
1 x 4"
Black Only
1cd Patricia's MarTF

CENTRAL MICHIGAN U/OCF
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Businessman named to Army post; receives emeritus status, 6-year term

Fifth Army PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — John G. Montgomery, a resident and businessman in Junction City, Kan., has been appointed to serve as civilian aide emeritus to the secretary of the Army.

The title comes with a six-year appointment based on Montgomery's exceptional performance over an extended period of time.

Montgomery was initially appointed as a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for Kansas in 1995, and has been very active in his role. He has ensured that the Army story is well communicated in the state of Kansas.

Montgomery, president of Montgomery Communications Inc., in Junction City, and printer of the Fort Riley Post newspaper, serves as an advisor to the secretary of the Army, the chief of staff of the Army and senior Army commanders.

He will primarily advise these leaders on how the civilian community perceives the Army and its current activities.

Montgomery also serves as a spokesperson to the civilian community regarding Army missions, programs and objectives.

Civilian aides are appointed for each state, and as such, focus their activities within that specific geographic area.

With his new appointment as a civilian aide emeritus, Montgomery will continue to serve the people of his state, but he is not limited to serving only the military and civilian communities in Kansas. Montgomery can also advise the secretary, the chief of staff of the Army and other senior Army commanders on military issues outside the boundaries of his own state.

In this capacity, Montgomery will serve as a local area advisor to the secretary of the Army and the Fifth U.S. Army commanding general on matters relating

to the U.S. Army.

Civilian aides are selected on the basis of their demonstrated patriotism, interest in the Army, business or professional leadership and their ability to increase the public's understanding of the Army.

Civilian aides are provided timely, pertinent information on subjects of general Army interest, especially subjects that have particular application in their states. Individuals designated for this responsibility are accorded a unique protocol status ranked as three-star general officers and are considered as the secretary of the Army's personal representative.

Montgomery is one of 26 other civilian aides serving in positions throughout the Fifth Army area of responsibility.

All civilian aides serve without pay and participate in Army conferences and training exercises to enhance their awareness and understanding of the Army.

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Army tests 'robot' Strykers for convoys

By Larry Edmond
Army News Service

FORT GORDON, Ga. — Engineers conducting show-and-tell with a 20-ton robot on the last day of two weeks of trials on Fort Gordon were cautiously optimistic.

Karl Murphy, a software engineer from Robotic Research, said there was a new principle of "Murphy's Law" at work on the test field Feb. 10.

"One of my professors reminded us that we have 'sight-ons' present whenever an experiment is being viewed," Murphy said. "The more 'sight-ons' you have, the greater is the potential for something to go wrong."

Tongue in check, he continued explaining that sight-on fields increase with the rank and reach of individuals viewing a test. With national, regional and local media rolling cameras, the "sight-on" field was very high that Friday.

The demonstration at Fort Gordon was a part of a much larger program of tests being conducted by the Robotics Technology Integration Team from the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research and Development Engineer Center, General Dynamics Corporation and its sub-contractors.

Jeff Jaczkowski, TARDEC electrical engineer and manager for this Robotic Follower Advanced Technology Demonstrator project, explained what the testing was about and why Fort Gordon was chosen.

Pointing to the two Stryker Infantry Carrier vehicles idling behind him at their base camp on

Range 37, Jaczkowski said these vehicles are part of a larger program set to bring vehicle electronics-vetronics technology integration and robotic systems to the force.

The system being testing at Fort Gordon is the robotic follower program. This program seeks to develop robots that can conduct convoy operations. One of the vehicles is called the CAT, an acronym for Crew Integration and Automation Test Bed. It serves as the manned leader vehicle.

The other vehicle serves as an unmanned follower in a convoy.

"We have done a circuit of testing that started in 2003," Jaczkowski said. "We have done a number of different environments, including Fort Bliss, Texas, that has a primarily sand and desert environment. We did Fort Knox, Ky., where there is more cross-country terrain. There was Fort Indiantown Gap and Lettters Army Depot in Pennsylvania."

"We are down here at Fort Gordon for the environment in the forested-type setting. We are focusing on road and long-haul convoy missions."

Jaczowski said Fort Gordon provides an ideal setting with a 10-kilometer loop that has a 3-kilometer stretch of dirt road and the rest is paved. The long stretches of isolated roads allow the teams to put their test vehicles through a series of high-speed tests.

"Yesterday we ran a 100-mile test where the lead vehicle was being driven manually and the robot was following," Jaczkowski



The Stryker is driven robotically through the Fort Gordon range during testing.

ANS/Edmond

said. "We did this successfully where the average speed was about 22 miles per hour. You may think that 22 miles per hour is not that fast when operational convoys are going 60 to 70 miles per hour. But you have to take into account that we did 68 right turns."

"You don't take right turns at 50 miles per hour, especially with a 20-ton robot."

On straight stretches, the vehicles routinely speed along at more than 40 mph, Jaczkowski said.

Pointing to the bristling array of sensors on the vehicles, Jaczkowski said these vehicles incorporate second-generation lidar-laser radar, forward-looking

infrared sensors and advanced computers to handle autonomous navigation.

For the autonomous follower, engineers are going beyond Global Positioning Systems to link terrain data from the lead vehicle back to the follower vehicle to augment data the follower vehicle gathers from on-board sensors.

"We have a major emphasis to create systems that can operate without GPS. We know that electronic interference can easily jam GPS in a battle zone."

"The idea is to pass electronic bread crumbs from the manned lead vehicle back to the autonomous follower vehicle and

provide high-level proofing of the follower's path so the follower avoids areas that might impede or confuse its autonomous navigation system, while requiring only a minimum of human intervention and control from the lead vehicle," Jaczkowski said.

Jaczowski characterized all the testing so far as outstanding and gave high marks to the Fort Gordon Battle Lab and range control.

He was quick to point out that the testing that he is conducting is not about the relatively new Stryker vehicle.

"The Stryker is a fielded system, but the robotic convoy technology sensors that we have on these units are what we are putting through the research and development stage."

The demonstration conducted before news media Feb. 10 showed how adept the robot is in making decisions. The lead vehicle was manually driven along the road through an area where a gate was set, with the robot vehicle following about 100 meters behind.

After the lead vehicle passed, the engineers were planning to pull a cord releasing a gate to block the path. The follower vehicle should be able to detect the gate and plot a path around it before continuing, Jaczkowski said.

True to Murphy's Law and the sight-on rule, the cord attached to the spring release broke as engineer Karl Murphy tugged it to release the gate. Undaunted, Murphy reached down and tripped the release. The gate swung into the path of the following robot.

With only a few seconds to assess, the robot slowed and veered around the gate. It then continued on its path, following the lead vehicle.

It was a slight glitch and only served to more graphically demonstrate how perceptive the robot is, Jaczkowski said.

In the future, Jaczkowski speculates the current efforts will lead to manned and unmanned convoys. "There are two avenues that the Army is pursuing. The near-term objective is to automate the function of driving in a convoy vehicle," he said.

Soldiers will remain in the vehicles for now, but by placing a vehicle on auto-pilot, the driver will be able to perform other duties or rest.

The long-term objective is to create dedicated unmanned ground vehicles.

In the tests being conducted at Fort Gordon, the lead vehicle develops a path along a route that it transmits to the follower vehicle that can follow the path immediately or weeks later.

"This is the beginning of going from point A to point B autonomously," Jaczkowski said.

He said the payoff will be in saving lives from such routine missions as resupplying forces in environments like Iraq, where roadside bombs wreak havoc.

The group will continue testing through March 10, Jaczkowski said.

Larry Edmond serves as a staff writer for the Fort Gordon Signal newspaper.

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2K2 Screen Mach

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2K2 Candlewood Health Mar TF

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2"
Black Only
2K2 College Heights Baptist

U.S. ARMY REENLISTMENT
6 x 10.5"
Black Only
642553 White





Commentary

Friday, March 5, 2006

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What do you think is the biggest factor or factors in employee dissatisfaction with their workplace?



"Lack of opportunities for advancement. Supervisors should provide every employee opportunities to develop."

Carolyn Hosier
Human relations specialist
Army Benefits Center
Home: Topeka, Kan.



"An arrogant boss. Someone who doesn't listen to the workers who know how to do the job. Some guy who's just out of school and points fingers."

Nick Mattingly
Steel stud framer
Contracted laborer
Home: Junction City, Kan.



"The relationship you have with co-workers. Integrity issues. Their values and honesty all-around."

Misty Montez
Military spouse
Dental assistant
Home: San Antonio



"One thing would be the way employees are treated by their supervisor. Supervisors need to realize civilian employees are not Soldiers. They have to treat them differently."

Jonathan Noble
DA police officer
Fort Riley
Home: Davenport, Iowa



"When employees cannot take breaks, especially when they're working in stressful situations. Also, micro-management. They need to let the employees do their job."

Ostis Smith
Computer administrator
Irwin Army Community Hospital
Home: Junction City, Kan.

Next week's question:

All Fort Riley organizations reached or passed Soldier retention goals for fiscal year 2005. What do you think is the biggest incentive keeping Soldiers from "walking"?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.



Letters to the editor are welcome. No letter is printed without full identification of the writer. Content must not contain libelous statements and must be of general reader interest. Send letters to the editor at Public Affairs Office, 405 Pershing, Fort Riley, KS 66442 or e-mail to mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.

Fire safety alert

Post to begin prescribed prairie burns

By Mike Cook
Post fire chief

Each year, the Fort Riley Fire Department performs controlled burns throughout the installation to minimize risks associated with prairie fires. These controlled burns eliminate the heavy accumulation of dried undergrowth that supports wildfires and, at the same time, encourages growth of new surface vegetation.

The burns have the added advantage of minimizing insects and rodent habitat, reducing their impact on the housing areas.

All controlled burns are carefully planned and coordinated with the Conservation Branch of Public Works, the fire department, Range Control and the Provost Marshal's Office to ensure each activity is prepared to assist in controlling the fire and is ready to respond to any related inquiries or request for



Fire Chief
Mike Cook

weather.

If approved, the controlled burning will be completed to reduce the potential for uncontrolled wildfire in the cantonment and housing areas.

During the months of March and April, controlled burns are planned for the Custer Hill areas. This year the installation needs to remove the accumulation of dried undergrowth around the hill in Training Area 4, located south of Ellis Heights, Morris Hill Ele-

mentary School and Fort Riley Middle School and the area south of Custer Hill housing, Training Area 3, which is south of Custer Hill housing, and Training Area 17, which is south of Custer Hill housing and North of Colyer Manor housing.

Smoke from the fires can be a problem for adults and children with asthma or other respiratory ailments. Residents can minimize or prevent problems by closing all windows and doors to allow the heating and cooling system to filter the interior air.

The controlled burn will occur during school hours, because that minimizes the number of children who are outside.

The fire department coordinates the controlled burn plan with all of the post schools, so they can assist in keeping children away from the fire. The fire department and the Conservation Branch will also

place firefighters in areas between the training area and the housing areas to prevent the fire from entering the housing areas or schools.

Residents should feel assured that the installation will take all precautions to ensure everyone's safety. We will post signs on roads to warn all drivers before they enter an area that may be impacted by smoke, so that they can take appropriate precautions, such as slowing down and turning on lights.

Because wind speed and direction determine when we are able to control burn, we cannot provide specific dates at this time. When the weather conditions are right, the installation will notify the public through Channel 2.

Any residents who have questions or concerns about any burning activity in their area can call the Fort Riley Fire Department, 239-4257, and ask for the on-duty supervisor.

Command message

Soldiers must be adaptive for Army future

Editor's note: The following comments were made by Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, during a Feb. 17 interview with a Pentagon Channel broadcaster and subsequently reported by Sara Wood in an article for the American Forces Press Service.

The nature of the threat facing the U.S. military has changed drastically, and Soldiers need to grow and become more flexible to face that threat.

The Army now faces an asymmetrical threat, so Soldiers must be prepared to perform many different functions, ranging from high-end combat and untraditional warfare to stability operations and homeland defense.

We now must cover a broader piece of the entire spectrum of operations, and because we have a force that is going to face challenges that will be dynamic and



Gen. Peter
Schoomaker

will move across the various challenges on the spectrum, we'll need people that are learning and adaptive.

This new breed of Soldier, the "pentathlete," will be skilled in his specific field but also be able to perform other functions in case a need arises on the battlefield.

It's about having very athletic people in very athletic organizations — people who can play multiple positions, who aren't defined very narrowly by a specific military occupational specialty.

Being an all-volunteer force that retains most of its people, the Army has a vested interest in

developing its Soldiers to their highest capacity. As Soldiers become more experienced at their craft, the force becomes more professional and expectations must be raised.

We can't act like we used to act and expect too little from the great talent we've got in our force.

People will rise to the challenges that we place before them, and we expect that of our Soldiers — for them to be masters of their primary skills, to be very

good at other skills and to grow every day and adapt.

Soldiers are the centerpiece of the Army, and they need to realize that what they are involved in right now is very important and will have lasting effects.

The Army is undergoing its largest transformation in 50 years, and it must endure through the growing pains to become a force that is more prepared to fight the long war on terror.

It's an exciting time to be in the Army, and it is a time of extraordinary transformation

Grunt By Wayne Udden

THREE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS STATEMENTS IN THE ARMY:



FORT RILEY POST

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New facility 'flies' in

Contractors use a huge crane to lift a relocatable section of what will be the new Child Development Center facility onto its foundation recently. The temporary structure will provide added capacity for child care services on post. It is located next to the School Age Services building across Normandy Drive from Custer Hill Elementary School.

Post/Meredith



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Cav borrows weapons

Unit hurdles obstacle to fire machine guns

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Staff writer

Part of the challenge in standing up a new brigade is when the number of Soldiers exceeds the amount of weapons needed to train them.

But that's nothing the Soldiers and leaders of the 2nd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, can't handle.

The unit had only three M-2 machine guns Feb. 24 and couldn't take all its Soldiers to the range at one time. Instead, Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Troop A and Troop B went to the range four Soldiers at a time.

"At this stage, it's a challenge, but not anything we can't overcome," said Lt. Col. James Crider, 2nd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, commander.

Doing what needs to be done without all the resources needed is all about overcoming the obstacle and moving on, and when things go wrong, leaders improvise.

One of the guns had to be taken apart after brass from the ammunition caked the inside of the barrel and the weapon jammed.

Another M-2 from the other side of the range was shifted quickly, replacing the malfunctioning one so firing could resume.

The day was not intended for Soldiers to qualify on the .50-caliber weapon. It was, instead, an opportunity for them to become

familiar with the weapon and to gain some experience firing it.

Soldiers practiced with a simulator the week before using live rounds. On the range, they zeroed the weapon sights at the qualification lanes with single shots and then with short, five- to seven-round bursts. They then moved to the transition lanes.

The transition lanes contained person-sized targets 100 to 800 meters away and a vehicle-sized target at 1,000 meters.

"Anytime these guys can get out here and fire live rounds, they are excited about that," Crider said.

Second Lt. Andrew Rinehart of Troop B said many of the Soldiers were straight out of basic training and advanced individual training and their experience with the weapons varied.

"The more rounds they can send down the range, the better prepared they will be later on," he said.

Pvt. Mark Peterson of HHT said he liked being on the machine gun range because he has

only fired the M-2 once — 20 quick rounds at basic training — and hasn't shot a weapon in a couple of months.

"That's what I enlisted to do; to shoot," he said.

Peterson said new Soldiers and equipment is arriving every week, and training is gradually building up. He is looking forward to seeing the 2nd Sqdn, 4th Cav, filled so full-blown training can begin.

"I can't wait until we can go as fast as we want to go," Peterson said.

Crider said small weapons were scheduled to arrive in the unit at the end of March and Soldiers would begin qualifying in April.

"We're line Soldiers, and what are Soldiers if they can't get their hands on weapons?" he said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil or 239-3977.

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Fort Riley PAO/Blackmon

Breckin Cubie, 9, and Sgt. Gary Kurtzhals of 1st Bn., 34th Armor, laugh as Cubie holds a Soldier's weapon Feb. 22 on Fort Riley. Cubie also received a ride on a tank during his visit.

Youngster rides with tankers

1st Bn., 34th Armor, Soldiers treat 9-year-old to special day

By Stephanie Perrin

Asst. Media Relations

Dressed in a Nomex tank uniform and Kevlar helmet and wearing a tankers' Expert Marksmanship Badge, "Sgt." Breckin Cubie climbed inside the turret of an M1A1 Abrams tank.

The 9-year-old boy has been diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, but he joined the ranks of some new "fellow Soldiers" from Fort Riley's 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, to ride in a tank Feb. 22.

"It's been neat to see him do all the different things," said his father, Bruce Cubie.

The Armor Soldiers provided Breckin with his own tank uniform, complete with his name and the rank of honorary sergeant sewn on.

Breckin is a student at Amanda Arnold Elementary School in Manhattan, Kan. His guide dog, Twister, attends school with him daily to help with his condition. Breckin owns a wheelchair that he uses occasionally, Cubie said. Children with Breckin's condition are typically restricted to a wheelchair by the age of 12, he added.

Breckin owns several military video games and the opportunity to ride on a tank was the opportunity of a lifetime for Breckin, Cubie said.

"I respect the military more

than any other job," Cubie said about his son's desire to visit the post. "(Breckin has) had a smile on his face the whole time."

Cubie, a Manhattan firefighter, said his friend and former fellow firefighter, Cpt. Aaron Leonard, was the person to thank for the memorable day.

Leonard, who has known Breckin since he was 1 year old, asked his neighbor, 1st Lt. Christopher Clyde, if he could help arrange for Breckin to have the opportunity to ride on a tank.

"We wanted him to see as much as possible before he doesn't have the energy," Leonard said.

Clyde, executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, didn't stop with just scheduling the tank ride. He arranged for Breckin to fire electronic "rounds" at the Close Combat Tactical Trainer and at the Advanced Gunnery Training Simulator.

"He loved that. We spent a lot of time there," Cubie said of the machine gun simulator.

After a morning of maneuvering a tank through the streets of a simulated Baghdad, it was time to dine with the Soldiers. Breckin was escorted to the Devils' Den where he ate lunch with Soldiers from Fort Riley's 1st Brigade.



Breckin Cubie, 9, and his father, Bruce, look out the turret of an M1A1 Abrams tank Feb. 22 on Fort Riley.

Fort Riley PAO/Blackmon

After lunch, the Soldiers accompanied Breckin to 1st Bn., 34th Armor's, motor pool for the tank ride.

Just before Breckin climbed atop the vehicle, he was stopped by Staff Sgt. Cory Kozielski, who awarded him with the Expert Marksmanship Badge.

"Very few tankers are awarded this badge," Kozielski said to Breckin. "In my eyes, you're going to be an expert tanker."

With his father at his side, Breckin climbed aboard the M1A1 Abrams tank and was driven around the battalion's motor

pool. He and the Soldiers enjoyed the ride so much they chose to lap the motor pool for a second time.

"I don't know who had more fun, him or us," Clyde said.

Breckin's visit to Fort Riley was completed by meeting Lt. Col. Michael Higginbottom, the battalion's commander. Higginbottom presented Breckin with the battalion commander's coin and a pin.

"You would think a child in his circumstance might look at it like, 'I hate the world,' but he's nothing but smiles," Clyde said.

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Post, Army news briefly

Job fair slated for March 10

The Army Career and Alumni Program (Center will host a job fair March 10. More than 30 employers will be present to visit with Soldiers and families to discuss available career opportunities. Employers will be available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Rooms 118C and 118D in Building 210 on Main Post. Resumes are not required. For more information on employers scheduled to attend, visit the ACAP Center or call 239-2278 or 239-2248. Job fair information, including a list of employers that will attend, also is available online at www.riley.army.mil or www.acap.army.mil.

Workers advised of their rights

Pursuant to Section 71141(j)(2)(B) of the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations (FLSMR) statute, federal civil service employees are advised that the exclusive representative of employees in the bargaining unit must be given the opportunity to be represented at any examination of an employee in a bargaining unit by a management representative in connection with an investigation if:

- The employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee, and
- The employee requests representation.

The exclusive representative for employees in the bargaining units at Fort Riley is American Federation of Government Employees Local 2324.

More information about employee rights under this provision of the FLSMR statute is available from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, 239-6093, or the local union office, 239-3645.

Staff report

Eleven Soldiers and two Department of the Army civilians with a combined service of more than 290 years were honored at a retirement ceremony Feb. 22 at Riley's Conference Center.

Maj. Carol E. Hunter retires as chief of preventive medicine services for Medical Department Activity after 20 years of service.

She has served stateside in Texas, Colorado, Georgia and Kansas. Her overseas duty stations included a tour in Korea and a tour in Hawaii.

Hunter said the highlight of her career has been the opportunity to serve alongside such a diverse group of people who have enriched her life professionally and personally.

She and her husband, Tommy, plan to live in Augusta, Ga. They have two children, Gabrielle and Rachel.

Hunter plans to spend her retirement time with her husband and children.

First Sgt. Douglas L. Morrison of Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, retires after 23 years of service.

He served stateside in Colorado, Texas and Kansas. His overseas duty stations include two tours in Germany and one tour in Korea. His combat experience includes a tour to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Morrison said the highlights of his career include training young Soldiers.

He and his wife, Pamela, plan to live in Milford, Kan. They have two children, Doug and Andrew.

Morrison plans to seek employment in the area and enjoy family and friends.

Master Sgt. Herbert P. Teope, chief paralegal noncommissioned officer for the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, retires after 20 years of service.

He has served stateside in Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina and Kansas. His overseas duty stations include one tour in Germany, one tour in Hawaii and one tour in Panama.

His combat experience

includes serving in support of Operation Just Cause in Panama and a tour in Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy.

Teope said the highlights of his career include drill sergeant duty and his time with the Big Red One.

Teope plans to live in Junction City now and eventually move east. He plans to finish his bachelor's degree in mass communications at Kansas State University and become a full-time sports-writer.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Dunlap, noncommissioned officer in the G3 Reserve Component Operations Branch retires after 23 years of service.

Dunlap served stateside in Colorado, Georgia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Kansas. His overseas duty stations include a tour in Germany.

Dunlap said the highlights of his career include participating in Reforger, Bright Star and Ocean Venture exercises and coaching, teaching and mentoring three National Guard brigades.

He plans to live in Ogden and work in the area. He has two children, Rhonda and Kristen.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery S. Kinney, fire support sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, retires after 21 years of service.

Kinney has served stateside in California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Vermont and Kansas. His overseas duty stations include a tour in Hawaii and a tour in Korea.

His combat experience includes a tour to Panama and a tour to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He and his wife, Stephanie, plan to live in Blanchard, Okla. They have three children, Austin, Madeline and Colton.

Kinney plans to finish his associate's degree and look for a job at Fort Sill, Okla., or possibly work for the Federal Emergency Management Agency or a federal security agency.

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Tripp, platoon sergeant in Company B, 101st Forward Support Battalion, retires after 21 years of service.

He has served stateside in Kentucky, Georgia, Texas and Kansas. His overseas duty stations include a tour to Hawaii, a tour to Germany and a tour to Korea.

His combat experience includes a tour in support of Operation Desert Storm, a tour to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and a tour to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Tripp said the highlights of his career include attending Air Assault School, making sergeant first class rank and training many younger Soldiers.

He and his wife, Tammi, plan to live in Augusta, Ga. They have two children, Nadeane and Tanasha.

Tripp plans to relax and find a federal civil service job.

Sgt. 1st Class Karen A. Manning, noncommissioned officer of logistics at Irwin Army Community Hospital, retires after almost 23 years of service.

Manning has served stateside in Maryland, New York, Washington, D.C., and Kansas. Manning's overseas duty stations include a tour in Korea, a tour in Germany and a tour in Colombia.

Manning said the highlights of her career include meeting new people and making lifelong friends as well as receiving her master's degree.

She and her husband, Michael, will remain in the area for the time being. They have three children, Brandon, Isaiah and Michael Jr.

Manning plans to pursue a job in human resources or business management and move in accordance to where the jobs are.

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth J. Davis, maintenance supervisor for the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, retires after 21 years of service.

He served stateside in Georgia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Kansas. His overseas duty stations include

a tour in Korea and two tours in Germany.

His combat experience includes one tour in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Davis said the highlights of his career include instructing the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course at Fort Knox.

He and his wife, Jo Ann, plan to live in Manhattan, Kan. They have two children, Nicholas and Kourtney.

Davis plans to work for General Dynamics.

Sgt. 1st Class Casey L. Scott, platoon sergeant for Co. B, 101st FSB, retires after 21 years of service.

He has served stateside in Maryland, Georgia, Colorado and Kansas. Scott's overseas duty stations include a tour in Korea and a tour in Germany.

His combat experience includes a tour in support of Operation Desert Storm and a tour to Bosnia.

Scott said the highlights of his career include being an instructor writer for five years.

He and his wife, Pencila, plan to live in York, Pa. They have four children, Logan, Andrew, Santia and Randolph.

Scott plans to participate in government service as a civilian and work on home improvement projects.

Staff Sgt. William E. Langrell Jr., noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of traffic accident investigation with the 97th Military Police Battalion, retires after 24 years of service in reserve and active duty.

He has served stateside in Alabama, Virginia, Georgia and Kansas. His overseas duty stations include two tours in Germany and two tours in Korea.

His combat experience includes a tour to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy. Langrell said the highlights of his career include being in the Regimental Aggressors Platoon at the Military Police School.

He plans to live in Milford, Kan., and to work in civil service.

Staff Sgt. Alfred L. Christy Jr., quality control inspector in the 1st Maintenance Company, retires after 23 years of service.

He has served stateside in Texas, Colorado and Kansas. Christy's overseas duty stations include two tours in Korea.

His combat experience includes a tour to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Storm and a tour to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Christy said the highlights of his career include his two tours in Iraq and his three years in Korea.

He and his wife, Patricia, plan to live in Canton, Ill. Christy plans to work for Caterpillar in Peoria, Ill.

Catherine M. Pruitt, home economist at Child and Youth Services in the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, retires after 20 years of civilian service.

Pruitt retires as one of the first volunteers to provide family child care in their homes and played a significant part in the implementation and development of the family child care program.

She has been praised for provided outstanding training, guidance and direction to the Family Child Care providers.

Pruitt and her husband, Kenneth, plan to live in the area. Pruitt plans to enjoy her hobbies, which are fishing, gardening and traveling.

Beverly M. McVey, chief claims examiner in the claims division of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, retires after more than 30 years of civilian service. She has worked at Fort Riley since 1981 and has adjudicated more than 20,000 claims.

She provided claims instruction to judge advocates and legal clerks and provided thousands of claims briefings to incoming and deploying Soldiers and their families.

She and her husband, Jerry, plan to live in the area. McVey plans to garden, travel and spend lots of time with her grandson.

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Post cooks head for culinary arts meet



Post/Heronemus

Spec. Christopher Pope (left) and Spec. Jeremy Morton watch Chef Billy Joe Gardner make rough cuts on an eagle ice sculpture Feb. 16 at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Junction City.

Cooks to sculpt ice at Fort Lee, Va.

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Two members of the Fort Riley culinary arts team can expect to get their hands cold during competition at Fort Lee, Va., this month. They will be creating an ice sculpture for the team's presentation.

Spec. Jeremy Morton of Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, and Spec. Christopher Pope of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, spent some time in February with master chef Billy Joe Gardner at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Junction City learning the craft.

Chef Billy Joe claims 30 years experience in the hotel food industry, starting at a hotel on Canal Street in New Orleans and then moving to another Marriott hotel in Dallas before transferring to the new Junction City hotel.

The two Soldiers first learned how to transfer a template design onto the four blocks of ice needed to complete their planned sculpture. One block was a complete 3-foot by 3-foot block. Another block was cut into three 1-foot by 3-foot pieces.

Chef Billy Joe said Feb. 16, during one of the three training sessions he had planned for the Soldiers, that he would teach them to carve an eagle with uplifted wings and carrying arrows in one claw and an olive branch in the other.

With the design transferred to the blocks of ice, Chef Billy Joe showed Morton and Pope how to make rough cuts using a chain saw. Morton later got a chance to try his hand at making some cuts on the main block of ice, cutting through beneath the body of the eagle and shaping some other parts of the bird.

The following week, the Soldiers learned to use flat and round chisels to smooth the rough cuts and add details.

"The chisels were a lot easier to use than the chain saw," Morton said. The eagle displayed for the Feb. 24 demonstration at Fort Riley was incomplete, he pointed out. It had taken the two Soldiers about an hour to finish the body of the flying eagle, Morton said, but they still needed to work on the two pieces that would be the claws holding the arrows and olive branch.

They will have three hours to complete the sculpture from scratch during competition.

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A roan mustang with black mane and tale surveyed the table of delicacies, as did many human guests interested in seeing what Fort Riley's culinary arts team would do at this year's competition at Fort Lee, Va.

They all gathered in Building 7860 Feb. 24 for a demonstration of the team's skills and a look at the southwestern-themed presentations of appetizers, cold meat plate, three-course meal, desserts and more.

Everything except the plates, platters and other items used to display the food must be edible, including the marzipan mustang centerpiece being created by Sgt. Carlos J. Quiles of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor.

The annual Army Culinary Arts Competition brings teams from installations around the world to Fort Lee to showcase their food preparation knowledge, skills and creativity.

This will be the 31st annual competition that culminates in medals and special advanced culinary training awarded to the top competitors.

The post team planned to leave March 3, taking a team manager and 10 Army cooks to the competition. Eight cooks compete as the core team and two added cooks serve as apprentices, to get items the food preparers need and to keep utensils washed during the preparation stage, said Staff Sgt. William McGinley, team manager, of 101st Forward Support Battalion.

Two years ago, the Fort Riley team created a medieval theme complete with a man-sized flying dragon, shield and broadsword and other table centerpieces. It even created edible rats to scamper among the displayed dishes.

Last year the team created a wedding motif.

Team Captain Sgt. Brian Brooks of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, has competed with the Fort Riley culinary arts team before. "I think we're stronger than last year," he said. "We only



Post/Heronemus

Marzipan mustang stands guard over delicacies prepared for demonstration by Fort Riley's culinary arts team Feb. 24.

had two weeks to put together a team last year, but everybody medaled."

This year, the team began practicing Jan. 21 for the 31st annual Army Culinary Arts Competition, said Master Sgt. Leroy Heyward III, installation senior food management noncommissioned officer with the 24th Infantry Division (Mech). He will accompany the team to Fort Lee.

The team picked a southwestern theme for its presentation because that is popular now, Brooks said. The southwestern theme offered no real restrictions, he added. "It's the spices and the sauces that make (the food) southwestern."

Sometimes a theme will restrict the kind of foods the team can prepare, Brooks said. The southwestern theme offered no real restrictions, he added. "It's the spices and the sauces that make (the food) southwestern."

The annual competition includes some live cooking, cooking in a field environment, creating some cold platters, some vegetable platters, hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, a nutritional three-course meal and desserts, McGinley said.

"It also puts some of the Soldiers in a 'buzzer game' that tests their knowledge of the culinary arts," he added.

Judges will look at each team's presentation, McGinley said, but looking pretty isn't enough to win. "Everything must taste good," he emphasized.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

The team:

Staff Sgt. William McGinley, team manager, 101st Forward Support Battalion

Staff Sgt. Sandra Prouty-Lemey, Company D, 610th Brigade Support Battalion

Sgt. Brian Brooks, team captain, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade

Sgt. Carlos J. Quiles, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor

Cpl. Christopher Kindred, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry

Spec. Corin King, Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery

Spec. Jeremy Morton, Svc. Btry., 1st Bn., 5th FA

Spec. Christopher Pope, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor

Pfc. Terry Pitts, 97th Military Police Company

Pfc. Marcus Higdon, HHC, 1st Bde.

Pvt. Anthony J. DeLeon, Co. D, 610th BSB

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Convoy continued from page 1

trained in these kinds of convoys during AIT.

The 610th BSB troop strength as of Feb. 22 was about 50 percent of its authorized number of Soldiers, Weaver said. He and Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie

Fields estimated they would be about 85 percent by the end of June.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at amanda.kim.stairrett@us.army.mil or 239-3977.

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Soldiers get eye-opener on relationships

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

In Somewhere, U.S.A., a jealous husband warned his wife to stay in the house while he went on a trip. After he left, she went to visit her lover, got her car towed



Post/Morelock
Soldiers discussed a scenario during the System Victim Focus session of the Equal Opportunity Representative Course at Riley's Conference Center Feb. 9. The training lasted two weeks and qualifies the Soldiers to act as the EOR for their units.

away and couldn't come up with the money to get it out of impound. After asking her lover and a friend for the money and not getting it, she decided to walk home. On her way home, she was killed.

Who was the most responsible for her death?

This is one question group members grappled with during the two-week, 80-hour Equal Opportunity Representative Course at Fort Riley in February.

This particular question was part of the System Victim Focus session Feb. 9. After reading the page-long scenario, the class split into two groups to rank the responsible parties.

"The lover didn't do anything to keep her from getting home," said one group member.

"But he didn't loan her the money to get her car back," pointed out another.

The two groups came together to share their decisions after about 20 minutes of discussion.

"This should be real simple," joked Sgt. 1st Class Lonnie Powell, 4th Brigade Combat Team equal opportunity advisor and facilitator for the activity. But, neither group came to a complete consensus on the final ranking.

"You didn't come to an agreement," Powell said, "because we all have different values and beliefs."

The exercise demonstrated the need to get the whole story about an incident, Powell said. Everyone plays a role, and it's easy to just blame the victim.

The 23 members of the class will become equal opportunity representatives for their respective units after completing the training. As representatives, the Soldiers will be the eyes and the

ears for their commanders and make sure that people are treated with respect, Powell said.

The representatives will also be responsible for giving 12 classes a year to members of their unit.

Some of the classes required are suicide prevention, alcohol and drug abuse prevention, prevention of sexual harassment, fraternization and improper relationships and an overview and objective of

the Army EO Program. Eight classes are mandatory; the other four can be chosen by the unit commander.

The students from this quarter's class graduated Feb. 16.



Post/Morelock
Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Powell (center, rear) discusses a point with Soldiers during the Equal Opportunity Representative Course. The group was discussing a scenario dealing with victim responsibility.

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Officers tour museum for professional development

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Staff writer

A squadron commander's plan to develop leadership traits in his subordinates took 18 young officers to the boyhood home of a former general officer and president of the United States Feb. 16.

A woman standing among the officers of 2nd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Museum in Abilene, Kan., commented that she might be in the presence of future great leaders.

The squadron's commander, Lt. Col. James Crider, planned the event as a professional leadership development trip. Because the squadron and other 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team units are in their infancy at Fort Riley, Crider said he wanted the trip to help bring his officers closer as a team.

He wanted the officers to pick up on the leadership characteristics that allowed a man from rural Kansas to make such an impact on the Army, the nation and the world.

Crider said he was drawn to Eisenhower's effectiveness as a leader. Although the former general and president was relatively reserved, he was effective, something Crider said was a key to success as a military officer and person, no matter what kind of personality a Soldier has.

"He got results. He made

things happen," Crider said during a tour of the museum. "At the end of the day, that's what we're looking for."

In various parts of the museum, 2nd Lt. Robert Humphrey, Oroch



Post/Stairrett
Officers of 2nd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., gather in the lobby of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Museum during a Feb. 16 professional leadership development trip to Abilene, Kan. Several second lieutenants gave short talks about periods in Eisenhower's life.

Koky Sisoura, Alex Torres and Daniel Pace of A Troop and Mario Millender and Andrew Rinehart of B Troop gave short talks about Eisenhower's life.

Rinehart spoke about the late-1944 Battle of the Bulge and said it teaches leaders the importance of logistics, because supplies and reinforcements ran low in that battle.

"If Eisenhower had some Cav running around the Ardennes Forest ... maybe the American forces would not have been hit so hard, he joked.

Throughout the presentations, Crider spoke of ways the officers could apply Eisenhower's traits in their careers.

Eisenhower was good at seeing the "big picture. That's a trait that will serve you well," Crider said. "You have got to see things at least two levels up, from the lieutenant colonel perspective."

Second Lt. Mark Ehlers of B Troop, earned his master's degree in American history and said he enjoyed visiting the museum and seeing how similar things remained from Eisenhower's service to his. He said Eisenhower's leadership characteristics could easily be applied today.

"It shows what one honest person can do," Ehlers said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at amanda.kim.stairrett@us.army.mil or 239-3977.



Post/Stairrett

Officers of 2nd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., tour a section of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Museum devoted to military vehicles and equipment representative of the former general's time in military service. More than 20 officers attended the professional leadership development trip to Abilene, Kan., to tour the museum and Eisenhower's boyhood home.

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Blood drive beats goal

A blood donor presses a cotton pad to his arm after donating blood. The blood drive was held Feb. 14 and 15 at Riley's Conference Center. It surpassed the set goal for the drive by 71 pints. First-time donors counted for 116 of the 186 donors at the drive and there were 161 good pints of blood taken.

Post/Morlock



Post newspaper, TV staffers win

Staff report

Fort Riley television and print journalists won or placed in several categories of the 2005 Keith L. Ware competition at Installation Management Agency Northwest Region competition.

"In Step With Fort Riley, Severe Weather Special" by Scott Rhodes, Gary Nap and Gary Skidmore won the Television Information Program category.

"Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer" by Nap won the Television Feature Report category. "German Italian Memorial" by Rhodes placed third in that category. No second place was awarded.

"In Step With Fort Riley" by Rhodes, Nap and Skidmore won the Local Television Newscast category.

The Post newspaper placed second in the Metro-Format Newspaper category behind the

Northwest Guardian at Fort Lewis, Wash. The Northwest Guardian has won the Army-level Keith L. Ware competition the past two years.

"Pepper-sprayed MP" by April Blackmon won second place in the Single or Stand-Alone Photograph competition. No first place was awarded.

Stephanie Perrin's "Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard" won third place in that category.

"Artist paints free portraits of KIA" by Mike Heronemus placed second in the Feature Article competition. His story, "Piceme to build 400 new homes" placed third in the News Article category.

Blackmon's photos and story about "Best Rangers" placed second in the Photojournalism category. No first place was awarded.

Her series of articles about "Learning to Thrive" placed third in the Story Series category.

Colleges announce classes

Education Services consortium offers wide range of study

Staff report

The new school term at Fort Riley University begins soon with classes like Introduction to Theater, the American West, Interpersonal Communication, American Military History, Business Law and Criminal Investigation.

For more information about classes offered at Fort Riley, contact Education Services at (785) 239-6481 or (785) 239-9485.

Barton County Community College

Barton County Community College is offering six traditional in-classroom courses for its March 27 to May 18 sessions. Art appreciation and public speaking will be every Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Classes in computers, English, German and hazardous materials handling will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Hybrid courses for the March 27-May 19 session are Monday classes in macroeconomics, English, personal and community health, World War II, disaster site work, algebra, geography, theater and marriage and family.

Tuesday classes include accounting, micro computer applications, creative writing, American West, western civilization 1500 to present, introduction to water/wastewater treatment, technical math, word processing and social psychology.

Wednesday classes are Office of Safety and Health Administration and the construction industry, micro computer repair and upgrade, philosophy and sociology.

Thursday classes include women and the American experience, basic/preparation math and general psychology.

The Monday through Thursday classes are 5:30 to 8 p.m. Anatomy and physiology II is from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Thursdays

and Fridays, March 30 through May 19.

For more information about BCCC classes, call (785) 784-6606 or 1-877-620-6606, or visit <http://fortriley.bartonccc.edu>.

Central Michigan University

Registration for Central Michigan University's Term III is from March 6 to 24. The Term II class, quantitative analysis in administration decision making, will be March 31, April 1, 21, 22, May 5 and 6.

Term IV registration is April 24 to May 12 for employee selection and evaluation and strategic planning for public/non-profit organizations. The employee class is scheduled for May 19, 20, June 9, 10, 23 and 24. Strategic planning is scheduled for June 2, 3, 16, 17, 30 and July 1.

Term V registration for administration research and report methods class is June 5 to June 7. Class dates are July 14, 15, 28, 29, Aug. 11 and 12.

Advanced Studies in intercultural communication is Aug. 25, 26, Sept. 8, 9, 22 and 23. Registration for Term VI is July 16 to Aug. 28.

Term VII classes are financial management and collective bargaining and labor law. Registration is Sept. 11 to Oct. 6. Financial management classes are Oct. 20, 21, Nov. 3, 4, Dec. 1 and 2. Collective bargaining will be taught Oct. 13, 14, 27, 28, Nov. 10 and 11.

For more information on Central Michigan University classes, call (785) 784-4402.

Leadership Skills Enhancement

Enrollment for active duty Soldiers began Feb. 6 for Leadership Skills Enhancement Courses. All other enrollments began Feb. 20.

According to the skills enhancement Web site, the courses are "on-duty classes designed to train noncommissioned officers and other Soldiers who exhibit potential for promotion and increased leadership responsibility." They are available to Soldiers, adult family members, Department of the Army civilians, retirees and Reservists.

More than 42 courses are available at no cost for undergraduate credit from Barton County Community College.

Classes are offered in computers, public speaking, economics, English composition, history, German, math, algebra, philosophy, political science, psychology and sociology.

For a complete list of classes, visit the LSEC Web site located under the Services tab on the Fort Riley homepage at <http://www.riley.army.mil>.

Click on "Education and Training" in the Services menu.

Upper Iowa University

Upper Iowa University is offering classes Monday through Thursday from March 27 to May 20. Enrollment started Feb. 13 and ends March 31.

The first set of Monday and Wednesday courses are scheduled from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. and are accounting principles II, personnel selection and evaluation,

introduction to criminal justice and personality.

The second set of Monday and Wednesday classes are from 7:50 to 10:05 p.m. and are marketing principles, developmental psychology birth-adulthood, diverse cultures and senior project.

Classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays are in two sessions: 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. and 7:50 to 10:05 p.m. The first session includes business law I, quantitative decision for business, administrative law and substance abuse. The second includes supervision, environmental science and social gerontology.

For more information on Upper Iowa University courses, contact (785) 784-5225.

Central Texas College

Central Texas College is offering automotive suspension and steering, automotive computer systems, salesmanship, introduction to early childhood education, the school age child, criminalistics I, criminal investigation, solid state devices, college algebra, American government I, U.S. history II, fine arts appreciation, introduction to sociology, business and professional speaking and introduction to blueprint reading for welders during its upcoming term.

Registration for the March 27 to May 20 term started Feb. 13 and ends March 23.

For more information on Central Texas College courses, call (785) 784-6240.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, March 3, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 15

Sports news in brief

Women sought for volleyball

A women's volleyball tournament scheduled April 8 in Manhattan will benefit the Manhattan Animal Shelter and Vizsla Rescue.

Teams are being sought to compete. Entry fee is \$70 per team.

Pool play will be used for competition with each team guaranteed to play three matches.

Prizes will be awarded. Games will be played in the Manhattan Community House and City Auditorium.

For more information, contact John Markham at 587-2757 or markham@ci.manhattan.ks.us

Park day use passes on sale

The 2006 annual day use pass for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers properties is available at the Turtle Creek Lake Visitor Center for \$30. The pass is good nationwide.

The pass permits the holder and accompanying passengers to use all boat ramps and swim beaches at Corps of Engineers parks without further charge. Either an annual or daily pass is required when using day use recreation facilities at Corps parks where user fees are charged.

Turtle Creek Cove Park is the only day use area requiring a pass. Boat ramp fees will be collected there from April 15 to Oct. 31. Beach use fees will be collected from May 15 through Sept. 15. Camping fees will be collected from April 15 through Oct. 31.

For more information, call the visitor center at (785) 539-8511.

Sign-up open for volleyball

The 2006 Fort Riley Battalion Level Volleyball League will begin soon. Each battalion may enter one team each in men's and women's competition.

Battalion Athletic and Recreation Officers must submit a Letter of Intent to Participate form to the sports office by March 8.

The season will run about six weeks beginning March 20.

For more information, call Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Staff seeks soccer teams

The 2006 Fort Riley Battalion Level Soccer League will be starting soon. Each battalion may enter one team each in men's and women's competition.

Battalion Athletic and Recreation Officers must submit a Letter of Intent to Participate form to the sports office by March 13.

The season will begin about March 22.

For more information, call Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Youth offered bowling week

Child and Youth Services is planning a "Learn to Bowl Spring Break Workshop" from 9 a.m. to noon March 20-24 at Custer Hill Lanes.

Children ages 6-12 can participate. Registration is under way and the workshop fee is \$65.

For more information, call 239-4847.

Guard athlete wins silver

Woman bobsledder drives USA-1 to Olympic medal podium

By Jack L. Gillund
Army News Service

TORINO, Italy — Spc. Shauna Robb, a member of the Utah Army National Guard, won silver in the Women's Bobsled competition as the pilot of USA-1 at the XX Winter Olympics on Feb. 21.

Robb, who is in the National Guard Outstanding Athlete Program, completed the competition at Cesana Pariol in the Italian Alps with a four-run combined time of 3 minutes, 50.69 seconds — 71 seconds behind the Gold medal winner.

"I'm ecstatic," Robb said. Ranked third in World Cup points for Bobsled, the adminis-

Want more information?

For stories and updates on Army athletes at the Winter Olympics visit <http://www4.army.mil/olympics/2006/>.
For information about the Army World Class Athlete Program visit <http://armywcap.com>.

tration specialist is a former bobsled brakeman and was an alternate to the U.S. Bobsled team for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. For this year's Games, Valerie Fleming joined her on USA-1 to operate the brakes.

"We got together in 2003," Robb said. "She's not just a teammate but a best friend as well."

"I have all the confidence in the world of Shauna," Fleming said.

Because she has competed against most of the other women in the bobsled circuit, Robb understood she had to be at her best if she was going to win a medal at the Olympics. Before her

first run, she watched Germany-1 set a new track record of 57.16 and Canada-1 put up a new push record of 5.16. She answered with a 5.28 push and a run time of 57.37 and closed the night with a two-run total of 1:55.02.

"It's amazing after the first day to be sitting in third place," she said. "I know if I have two more good consistent runs and get down a little bit on that start, I can be right up there on the medal stand."

Feb. 21 the National Guard athlete got her wish. She opened the evening's competition by sliding one of the straight lines of the

See Bobsled, Page 18



ANS/Gillund
Spc. Shauna Robb and brakeman Valerie Fleming push USA-1 off the starting line at the bobsled track at Cesana Pariol in the Italian Alps during Olympic competition Feb. 21.

League play ends

16th Infantry teams battle at King gym

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Southern League company level basketball ended its season Feb. 27 with two 16th Infantry teams facing off at 7 p.m. in King Field House.

Company B, 1st Battalion, pressured its way to a 59-34 win over Company A, 1st Bn., in a game that included a lot of physical contact under both baskets. The win kept Co. B's record unblemished at 6-0 for the season, one win better than its next toughest rival, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., who posted a 5-0 win-loss record this season.

In the 6 p.m. Southern League game, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), ran Company A, 1st Battalion, 190th Field Artillery (MP Provisional) into the floor, 74-31.

HHC, 24th Inf. Div., claims the best record in the Northern League with 7 wins and 2 losses, trailed by 1st Maintenance Company with 6 wins and 1 loss.

The last Northern League game of the regular season ended before it began at 8 p.m. Feb. 27 when the 172nd Chemical Company forfeited to Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion.

The Eastern League wrapped up play Feb. 22. Regular season results showed Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, posting the best record with 8 wins and no losses. Its closest competitor was Company A, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, with 6 wins and 1 loss.

The two Southern League 16th Infantry teams playing Feb. 27 seemed counter-balanced to some degree in the first half. Co. B tried to use a run-and-

See Basketball, Page 16



Post/Skidmore
Edmond Roches (right) of Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.; Michael Randa (22) of Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., and another Co. A player stretch for a rebound as Co. A players Jim Edison (left) and Jose Quinones watch the ball Feb. 27.

League standings

Eastern League (as of Feb. 22)

Team	W	L
331st Signal	4	4
HHC, 1-34 Armor	8	0
Co A, 1-34 Armor	6	1
Co C, 1-34 Armor	1	6
HHD/A 101st FSB	3	5
Co B, 101st FSB	4	4
HHC, 1st BCT	3	5
4th IBCT	1	7
610th BSB	5	3

Northern League (as of Feb. 27)

Team	W	L
HHC, 24th ID	7	2
Medd/Dentac	1	5
116th MP Co	4	2
997th MP Co	1	6
10th ASOS	1	7
Co A, 1-190 MPs	3	4
3-75th Inf	0	2
Co A, 1st Eng Bn	3	2
1st Mntc Co	6	1
172nd Chem Co	4	3

Southern League (as of Feb. 27)

Team	W	L
HHC, 1-16 Inf	5	0
Co A, 1-16 Inf	2	5
Co B, 1-16 Inf	6	0
HHC, 1-5 FA	3	4
Btry B, 1-5 FA	2	3
Btry D, 1-5 FA	2	4
Svc Btry, 1-5 FA	5	3
D Trp, 4th Cav	1	6
HHC TFD	4	3

Feathered migration under way through flyways



Alan Hynek

By Alan Hynek
Fish and wildlife biologist

It's migration time. The ducks, geese and other migratory birds are again headed north. Some 836 species of migratory birds will repeat the journey completed by previous generations. The main flyways will fill with the sounds of millions of birds flying en masse, and the waterways will fill with sounds of honking, quacking and grunting.

Most birds migrate south from their breeding grounds to their win-

On the Wildside: News About Nature

tering grounds each fall. They may winter in habitats throughout the southeastern United States or even farther south into Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. In the spring, they return north to their breeding grounds, where young are produced and the life cycle repeats.

Four main flyways traverse North America: the Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic. Fort Riley lies

in the Central Flyway between two of the most important migration refuges: Cheyenne Bottoms in central Kansas and the Platte River in Nebraska. They serve as critical refueling points for migrating birds.

Migratory birds are protected by federal statute that prohibits collection, possession or taking of migratory birds. However, that does not preclude certain

species from being hunted, including some 59 species of ducks, geese, swans, cranes, various pigeons, woodcock, rails, snipes and gallinules and some sea birds.

More than 775 species (93 percent of migratory birds) are considered non-game birds. They are represented in groups including marsh and wading birds, birds of prey, such as hawks, owls and eagles, shorebirds, sea birds and perching birds.

Collection and possession of non-

See Wildside, Page 16





'The Sarge' loses opener to teammate

By Derik Crofts

Army News Service

POMONA, Calif. — After a record-setting championship year in 2005 for Tony Schumacher, his

teammate, Melanie Troxel beat him in the second round of the NHRA season opener Feb. 12. Troxel went on to win the Winter-nationals Top Fuel Division and ensured the Army logo was proudly displayed in the winners

circle.

A large crowd had watched with excitement, concern and anticipation to see if the popular driver of the U.S. Army dragster would start 2006 the way he ended 2005.

"It was great to start over after two months off," Schumacher said. "The team is outstanding and picked up right where we left off by qualifying No. 1."

Feb. 9 and 10 qualifying runs had created a murmur among the

racers, as Feb. 11 saw rookie drivers J.R. Todd and Hillary Will start the day first and second, respectively. Schumacher was far back in 15th place. Recognizing his Call To Duty, by the time the smoke cleared on Feb. 11, Schu-

macher was back in his familiar position — leading the pack to start the finals Feb. 12.

"It was just an outstanding race," Schumacher said. "All-in-all, it took our own team to beat us."



Post/Skidmore

Traun Roberts (right) of Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., grapples with Terrance Evans (21) of Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., for a loose ball during the teams' last game in regular season league play Feb. 27. Co. B defeated Co. A 59-34.

Basketball

continued from page 15

gun offense that put them right under the basket time and time again. But they couldn't make many of their shots fall through the net, especially with Ryan Sunderman smothering shots with long arms and a tall defensive presence that blocked efforts to get closer to the basket.

Co. A played a more methodical offense, bringing the ball down court at a leisurely pace and looking for open players 15 to 25 feet from the basket. But they shot cold and gave up lots of rebounds to the leaping forms of Terrance Evans, Jose Quinones and Edmund Roches.

Benches for both teams were shallow, with each team dressing only seven players. That tended to wear down players at the end of each half. Near the end of the first half, a couple of players even squatted in place along the key at least once before the free throws were taken. At the end of the second half, Co. A seemed depleted and, trailing without hope of making up the deficit, responded only half-heartedly to steals and fast breaks by the quicker Co. B players.

Both offenses proved ineffective through the first half, with

Co. B managing only a 9-4 lead after nearly eight minutes of play. The lead had widened to 15-7 with less than 6 minutes left on the clock.

Co. B would have gone into the halftime break with twice as many points as Co. A, but a last second foul sent Bryan Wilson to the foul line, and he sank both shots for Co. A to end the half at 18-11 in favor of Co. B.

Co. B's tenacious defense caused some concern on their bench when the team was advised two of its key players had amassed four personal fouls. Evans had gotten all those fouls in the first half and Jim Edison got his fourth shortly after the second half began.

Co. B continued its fast break offense and hard drives to the basket throughout the second half, and the strategy began to pay off with more baskets.

With 6 1/2 minutes gone in the last half, Quinones wowed spectators with a behind-the-back pass to Evans on one of those fast breaks to boost their lead to 29-14.

Evans heated up offensively throughout the second half, as did Edison later in the last half.

Bryan Wilson gave Co. A some hope offensively in the second half, as did Sunderman, but it wasn't enough to match the marksmanship of the Co. B team.

Edison led Co. B scoring in the game with 24 points, including one 3-pointer. Evans scored 13, Roches added 7, David Simmons put up 6 and Quinones contributed 5.

Sunderman led Co. A scoring with 11 points. Wilson hit for 7, including one trey; Timmy Glaze scored 6 and Traun Roberts added 5. Glaze and Roberts hit one 3-pointer apiece.

Fort Riley opens the post tournament with eight teams scheduled to play Saturday in King Field House.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8834.

Wildside

continued from page 15

hunting migratory birds is clearly defined. If you possess any bird or parts of a bird that is not a huntable species, it is an obvious violation of federal statute.

However, the term "take" is poorly defined and has been a continuing source of controversy. It is especially complex in regard to military bases, where the training mission can be deemed a take, such as heavy equipment moving across the prairie. The definition of "take" has been battled back and forth in the courts for some time with no apparent solution in sight.

Neotropical migrants are a group of birds that are of more particular risk than many of the other migratory birds. This group

includes the warblers, vireos, flycatchers, hummingbirds, swallows and others that migrate to wintering grounds south of the United States — to Mexico, South and Central America and the Caribbean. They require two types of habitat many miles apart. If either habitat is altered, the population will begin to decline.

Some of these birds are common to us: the gray catbird, purple martin, barn swallow and chimney swift. Others, such as the red-eyed vireo, scarlet tanager, wood thrush and black and white warbler, may be familiar only to bird watchers.

Most of the birds that call Fort

Riley home in the spring and summer are also migratory. Some species, such as the Henslow's sparrow, travels to Kansas in search of a very specific habitat — uncut, 2- to 3-year-old tallgrass prairie. This type of habitat is becoming increasingly rare because most tallgrass prairie is burned, grazed or hayed each year, leaving little standing grasses.

The Henslow's sparrow is considered a federal Species of Concern because of the loss of its habitat.

The annual migration has fascinated humans for years. In 1935, Aldo Leopold wrote in "A Sand County Almanac":

"A cardinal, whistling spring

to a thaw, but later finding himself mistaken, can retrieve his error by resuming his winter silence.

A chipmunk, emerging for a sun bath but finding a blizzard, has only to go back to bed. But a migrating goose, staking 200 miles of black night on the chance of finding a hole in the lake, has no easy chance for retreat. His arrival carries the conviction of a prophet who has burned his bridges.

The spring of the year is indeed a time of faith — one implied by the passing of migrating fowl, raptors and warblers. This time of year, the broken silence of the sky will always be a welcome signal of spring.

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Sports news briefly

Youth soccer sign-ups slated

Registration begins March 13 and runs through April 7 for the Start Smart soccer instructional program for children ages 3-5 and their parents.

Registration is being done at Central Registration, Building 6620, call 239-4847.

Registration costs \$20 per child plus the yearly CYS registration fee of \$18.

The program will be conducted from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Mondays April 10 through May 15 at the Colyer youth sports fields.

Land nav class planned on post

The Outdoor Recreation Center staff at Fort Riley has scheduled an orienteering class from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 24. Students will use the land navigation course in Training Area 26 off Estes Road.

Land navigation will be accomplished using Global Positioning Systems, not compasses.

Participants must register at the Outdoor Recreation Center, 239-2363, by March 23. Cost is \$5 per person.

Skills contest set for youth

Local youth between 8 and 13 years of age have the opportunity to participate in the basketball portion of the U.S. Junior Olympic Skills Competition March 3 at the Fort Riley Teen Center.

Participants may register the day of the event. A copy of the youth's birth certificate is required the day of the competition for age verification.

Champions from this local qualifying event will advance to one of the regional competitions across the country in hopes of advancing to the National Finals.

For more information, visit www.usolympicteam.com on the Web or contact the local qualifying event host, Megan Perez, by phone at (785) 239-9223 or e-mail her at megan.n.perez@riley.army.mil.

Softball league seeks teams

The Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department is

accepting team registrations for the 2006 Wildcat League softball program. Leagues are available for children ages 10 and under through 16 and under.

Deadline for sign-up is March 24 or when the league is full.

The Wildcat League season will run from May 15 through July 15. Games will be played at Griffith Park or City Park.

The fee is \$450 per team for six doubleheaders, staff, game balls and USSSA sanction fee or \$500 per team for eight doubleheaders, staff, game balls and sanction fee.

Teams must provide their own equipment and uniforms.

For more information, call Adam Dolezal at (785) 587-2757.

Baseball league seeks teams

Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department is accepting team registrations for the 2006 Wildcat League baseball program. Leagues are available for children 8 years and under through 14 years and under.

Deadline to sign up is March 31.

The fee is \$650 per team and includes 10 doubleheaders, staff, game balls and USSSA sanction fee. Teams must provide their own equipment and uniforms.

The Wildcat League season will run from May 1 through July 14. Games will be played at Twin Oaks Sports Complex or at CCo Park.

For more information, call Mike Buchanan or John Markham at (785) 587-2757.

Youth swim camp scheduled

A youth competitive swimming camp will be offered third- through eighth-graders from post from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 6-17.

The camp will provide youth who know how to swim an opportunity to work on and improve the strokes used in competitive swimming. Junction City High School and Manhattan High School sponsor swim teams.

Participants must register with Central Registration in Building 6620. Cost for the camp is \$10. Each camper will get a T-shirt.

For more information, call 239-9223.

U.S. biathlon team places 9th in Olympics

By Jack L. Gillund
Army News Service

TORINO, Italy — As anchor on the U.S. Biathlon's Olympic Relay Team, Army World Class Athlete Spec. Jeremy Teela blames his poor shooting for the team's ninth-place finish in the Men's 4 X 7.5 kilometer Relay competition at the 2006 Winter Olympics Feb. 21.

"Could we have got seventh today, probably," the Vermont National Guardsman said. "I think I messed up. I had a penalty in standing, so I had to take a penalty loop."

Strong skiing on the cross-country course and just three extra shots needed on the firing line helped Jay Hakkinen of Kasilof, Alaska, put the U.S. team in the lead by 3.8 seconds. Tim Burke of Paul Smiths, N.Y., couldn't maintain the momentum, though. He needed six extra shots (three in the prone and three in the standing positions), which contributed to the team falling to eighth.

The downward spiral continued when Lowell Bailey of Lake Placid, N.Y., needed an extra shot in the prone position and three standing — moving the team to ninth.

Teela started his leg of the race strong, moving the team up two places to seventh. When he was unable to hit all five targets in the standing position, though, he was required to complete a 150-meter penalty loop, adding to his course time and knocking the team back to ninth.

"Ninth is great," Teela said. "But when I see seventh place and I take that penalty ... it's kind of disheartening when my mistake is the one that takes the team back two places."

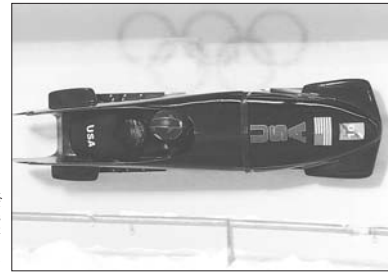
During the relay competition, each competitor is required to ski three 2.5-kilometer loops and twice fire a .22 caliber rifle at five targets — once in the prone position and once standing.

Unlike other biathlon events, each competitor is given six extra .22 caliber rounds — three for each of his two shooting bouts. If all five targets are not knocked down with the first five rounds, the competitor can use three additional rounds to try to hit the remaining targets. For each target left standing, the competitor must ski an extra 150 meter penalty loop.

After completing three laps on the cross-country course and the two shooting sessions between laps, competitors touch a teammate, sending him onto the course. The team whose fourth competitor crosses the finish line first is the winner.

Seventeen countries entered teams in the event. Taking home the gold was Ricco Gross, Michael Roesch, Sven Fischer and Michael Greiss of Germany. Ivan Tcherezov, Sergei Tchepikov, Pavel Rostovtsev, and Nikolay Kruglov of Russia won the silver. Julien Robert, Vincent Defrasne, Ferreol Cannard and Raphael Poire of France won the bronze.

"I think you'll see us in the next four years," Teela said about the U.S.'s Biathlon team.



ANS/Gillund
Spec. Shauna Rohbock of the National Guard Outstanding Athlete Program pilots USA-1 under the Olympic logo on curve 11 of the Cesana Pariol bobsled track in the Italian Alps. Rohbock, along with brakeman Valerie Fleming, won silver in the Women's Bobsled competition at the XX Winter Olympics.

Bobsled

continued from page 15

event. Her push time for run three was 5.30. She slid solidly into second place with a run time of 57.78.

Germany-1 kept the heat on, though. That team's run time of 57.34 helped them extend their lead to .53 second. On her final run, Rohbock slid solidly into second with a push of 5.31 and a

run time of 57.18.

Sixteen sleds from 10 countries started the competition — 15 finished. Sandra Kiriasis and Anja Schneiderheinze of Germany won gold with a four-run time of 3:49.98. Gerda Weissensteiner and Jennifer Isacco put down a combined time of 3:51.01 to win bronze for Italy.

THE GALLERY
4 x 3.5"
Black Only
4X3.5 Gallery 3/3

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD-MANHATTA
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 1st. Assem/God Mar TF

GARDEN GATE ANTIQUES
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Garden Gate Quilt

HORTICULTURAL SERVICES
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Hort. Services

CHRISTIAN BOOKS & GIFTS
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Christian Mtl Appreciation

JIM CLARK
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Bruce Barnett

CURVES OF JUNCTION CITY
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 Ford Drive



Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, March 3, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 19

Community news briefly

Speaker to talk on child senses

Children with sensory processing differences may avoid touching, refuse to wear certain clothing, be picky eaters or cover their ears or eyes. Conversely, they may crave sensations by playing in mud, grabbing others, turning up the volume, preferring hot bath water and spicy food, seemingly oblivious to sensory cues.

A child may be constantly on the go, wearing out everyone around him or her or move slowly and tire easily, showing little interest in the world.

He or she may be awkward, seemingly careless or accident-prone.

Winnie Dunn, PhD and professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy Education at the University of Kansas Medical Center, will be presenting information relating to these issues March 13 in Junction City and at Fort Riley.

The first presentation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Junction City Municipal Building, 700 N. Jefferson. The second will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Soldier Family Support Center, Building 7264.

Those who wish to attend should call the Exceptional Family Member Program office at 239-9435 or Geary County Infant/Toddler Services at 762-7859 by March 06.

Student sings with honor choir

Joseph Gates, a student at Fort Riley Elementary School, sang Feb. 4 with the North Central Elementary Honor Choir for a performance in Manhattan. The choir contained about 145 singers from 21 area schools.

Each singer was selected because of his or her outstanding singing ability. Gates and the other members of the choir began rehearsal at 9 a.m. Feb. 4. All honor choir members had learned the music before the rehearsal.

Karen Sims, the seventh- and eighth-grade music instructor at Maize South Middle School, worked with the students on diction, proper vowel sounds and overall tone quality.

The choir performed five musical selections in concert for family and friends at 3 p.m. the same day.

Spring art workshop set

Child and Youth Services' instruction program in Building 6620 will offer an art workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 20-24.

Children ages 6 and older are welcome.

Registration is under way in Building 6620. Cost for the weeklong workshop and art supplies is \$35. Participants must bring a sack lunch.

For more information, call 239-4847.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Pay statements to show change

On-post residents will see housing allowance, Picerne allotment on LES



By Cassidy Hill

Picerne Military Housing

Soldiers and family members living in Fort Riley housing at Fort Riley will see a change on their Leave and Earning Statement beginning the end of July.

Now, Soldiers assigned to on-post housing do not see an amount for their Basic Allowance for Housing because it was forfeited when they moved into military family housing.

When Picerne Military Housing assumes responsibility for all of Fort Riley's on-post family

housing in July, Soldiers will see how much they receive for BAH on their LES. The BAH will appear on the LES under entitlements. An allotment for the same amount will be withdrawn from their pay and appear in the allotments. That allotment will go to Picerne Communities to

fund the 50-year housing partnership project that transfers responsibility for managing, maintaining and improving post housing to Picerne.

Picerne will use the BAH allotment to build new homes and

See Picerne, Page 20

Who will care?



Post growth will require additional child care

By Anna Morelock

Staff writer

Irwin Army Community Hospital staffers are projecting 370 births at the hospital over the next six months.

That number may change with the number of families coming and going from post, but one fact remains: Fort Riley needs more family child care providers — people who take care of others' children in their home on post.

"Post population is burgeoning," said Kay Forman, family child care director. She said 15 family child care providers now offer services on post, but it would be ideal to have 60 more. That still wouldn't be enough, she added.

Waiting lists for child care change daily. Forman said, and the wait depends on the list the child is on. Children can be put on one of three lists: a projected list for future care, an excess list for demand over the spaces or the preference list for those waiting for a certain type of care.

"Everyone's situation is an individual situation," said Sherilyn Singleton, Child and Youth Services administrator. "You can't lump everybody into one category of child care needs nor waiting list, nor status."

When a parent comes into central registry to arrange for child care, existing options will be explained and they'll go from there, Singleton said.

A child receives the same quality of care in a home that they would in a child development center, Singleton said. "Family child care providers are looked at more individually than center staff," she said, "because center staff is in there as a collective group."

People interested in becoming family child care providers can attend a meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 2:30 p.m. in Building 6620 to find out more about the job.



Post/Morelock

Marquita Chatman plays with her daughter, Makayla, and 8-month-old Daniel Pacheco in her home on Fort Riley. Post officials think 60 more child care providers are needed to meet the growing demand created by families moving to Fort Riley with the build-up.

Dovey Reeves, who's been a child care provider on and off since 1998, said she started for the experience and because of what she could offer. Later on, when she had her own children, Reeves said it was great to be available to them during the day.

"The possibility of doing child care is endless," she said, "but you've got to enjoy children."

New providers receive two weeks of

training before opening their homes to children. They also receive guidance from family child care staff at Child and Youth Services.

Those interested in attending the March informational session can call 239-4313 with questions.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at 239-3032 or anna.morelock@riley.army.mil.

Youth jobs top group's issues

Post rep takes part in annual conference

By Anna Morelock

Staff writer

Jobs for military affiliated teenagers topped the list of youth issues needing attention when installation representatives of the Army Family Advocacy Program met Jan. 23-27 in Alexandria, Va.

The top five conference issues finally identified by the conference General Officer Steering Committee were wounded Soldier updates, casualty assistance for families of National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers in an inactive status, advanced life support services on continental United States installations, military spouse hiring preference program across all federal agencies and health processing of demobilizing Army Reserve component Soldiers.

The 115 conference delegates worked 75 issues.

Jim Hill, a training instructor for the Environmental Compliance Branch of the Directorate of Public Works at Fort Riley, attended the annual conference. He served as part of the child and youth work group, which he said was a challenge. The closest thing to a youth dependent he and his wife have is their dog, Sparky, he said.

The group's membership included six Army teens from around the world, Hill said.

They dealt with 12 issues concerning work available for military affiliated youth. After finding that four issues had been resolved, the group prioritized the remaining issues.

One of the teen group members presented their top issue and suggested solution to the steering committee.

"Our suggestion was to provide teen preference hiring for on-post jobs," Hill said. The jobs referred to would be after school and during summers, mostly non-appropriated fund positions and work with Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities, he said.

Hill said he gave one example of the preferential treatment teens are given at the Fort Riley Commissary.

Store Manager Mark Derby said teens get priority as baggers after school and on weekends. Weekends are the times they can make the most money, Derby added.

ATAP conferences are held throughout the year at the installation level. U.S. Forces Command level and Department of the Army level to identify issues with Army-wide ramifications and suggest solutions for them. Dele-

See Conference, Page 20

Community insight

Volunteer hours show support, need

By Jill Sanders Crider
Volunteer family member

Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation Week is fast approaching and I bet you've been asked more than once, if you're a volunteer, to report your hours. Did you?

Let me try to shed a bit of light and understanding as to what reporting volunteer service

hours means at Fort Riley and many other military communities.

Any time you give and report your volunteer hours, you are promoting a positive community, volunteer agency and individual relationship. You are providing a better understanding of the need for and the importance of your service. It can mean the difference in continuing or eliminating programs and activities.

Members of the community who are involved in or responsible for providing and maintaining those services can become your most vocal allies and the best proof that your time and efforts are important.

Think of every hour of volunteer time as a little "letter" of support, like a petition of sort. These "letters" show support for a remedy to a prob-

lem, a change in a policy or a program, a new project or a much needed service. These "letters" advocate your support for a worthwhile effort.

Every volunteer hour that you contribute and report to an agency increases the level of community support. That positive image can go a long way in acquiring and maintaining ser-

See Volunteers, Page 20



Picerne

continued from page 19

amenities, renovate older homes, home maintenance, lawn care, pest control, utilities, renter's insurance, cleaning the home after move out, capital repairs, such as new roofs, heating and air conditioning systems, street repair, etc., and management of the housing neighborhoods.

Rather than receiving their BAH and then making monthly rental payments to Riley-Picerne Communities, Soldiers will sign a Resident Occupancy Agreement, or lease. The signed ROA will give the government permission to start the rent allotment.

Once the ROA is signed, the Soldier's information is entered into a database for Military Assistance Company, the management contractor who collects the allotments.

MAC has been processing allotments since 1985 and serves all branches of the Armed Forces.

The payment system is fully

automated and interfaced with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

This system will facilitate starting, managing, tracking, updating and stopping payroll allotments to pay the rents in support of the RCI privatized family housing program.

If both spouses in a family are on active duty, both servicemembers will receive the appropriate BAH for their rank.

Their rent will equal the senior grade member's BAH at the "with dependent" rate. The other member will retain his or her BAH.

Although dual military families may see some increase in their combined take-home pay, most families living in on-post housing will see no change in take-home pay.

In order to stop the BAH allotment, Picerne Military Housing will need to officially clear the resident and any charges for dam-

ages beyond normal wear and tear will need to have been paid by the resident leaving.

After move out, any refund due will be made within 10 business days after Riley-Picerne Communities receives the allotment for the last month's rent.

This means that if a Soldier moves out July 15, a refund will be issued within 10 days after July 31 for the remaining July days the Soldier did not live in on-post housing.

If a Soldier's BAH does not appear on his or her LES July 31, or they receive the entitlement and it is not taken out as an allotment he or she should see the neighborhood manager immediately.

The BAH money is earmarked for rent. If a Soldier spends the BAH, he or she will be responsible for paying rent until the problem is corrected.

Conference

continued from page 19

gates at the DA conference represent active duty military members, the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, retirees, DA civilians and family members.

Hill, a retired first sergeant, said he became a delegate at the Fort Riley conference two years ago because he doesn't golf.

The retiree branch was tasked with providing names for the Fort Riley AFAP conference, he explained. The conference happened to be at the same time as the commanding general's golf tournament.

So, Hill said, because he didn't golf, he was the only retiree able to attend.

Hill said he has enjoyed being a part of the AFAP process. "I've been retired for four years, and I've never seen any issues resolved so fast. Anytime you can have a conference where the secretary of the Army is, you know it's important. Within six months, sometimes, it's Army policy."

Since AFAP was implemented in 1983 by the Army chief of staff, it has influenced 97 legislative changes, 140 policy or regulatory

changes and 157 program and service improvements. It has worked 588 issues.

For more information on the AFAP process, contact Fort Riley Army Family Action Plan Coordinator Becky Willis at (785) 239-9435 or site2665@riley.army.mil.

A complete list of 2006 conference issues is available at myarmylife100.com.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at 239-3032 or anna.morelock@riley.army.mil.

Volunteers

continued from page 19

vices, programs and activities.

Regardless of the type of volunteering that you do, you want it to be meaningful, helpful and effective to those you serve.

If you believe your organization contributes to the good of the community, then you want it

to be the best it can be.

These are demanding times, so now more than ever we need to inspire, motivate and perpetuate the good in all of us and our community.

The documentation and reporting of volunteer contributions

can be the good news that inspires the best in all of us.

So next time someone asks you to report your volunteer hours, do it, and think of it as saying, "This is important to me, my family and my community and I believe it serves us all."

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2 x 21.25"
Black Only

A1B
4 x 11"

4x11 A1B Full Color







Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, March 3, 2006

Leisure time ideas

At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

March 3 — Glory Road (PG) 106 Min.

March 4 — Tristan & Isolde (PG-13) 125 Min.

March 5 — Glory Road (PG) 106 Min.

March 9 — Tristan & Isolde (PG-13) 125 Min.

March 10 — Big Momma's House 2 (PG-13) 99 Min.

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Where: 530 Richards Dr., Manhattan Holiday Inn
Phone: (785) 537-0688 or (800) 748-7474
Web site: www.flinthill-swinefest.com

Admission: Grand tasting \$40, dinner and auction \$100

What: Aggieville St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Races. Parade, breakfast, and running events for children and adults.

When: Hours vary March 11

Where: Main Street

Phone: (785) 776-8050

Web site: www.aggieville.org

Admission: Free

What: St. David's Concert and Tea. A celebration of Welsh heritage honoring the patron saint of Wales with a concert and traditional tea serving Bara Brith.

When: 2:30 p.m. March 5

Where: 1702 W. 15th Ave., Westminster United Presbyterian Church

Phone: (620) 256-6687

Admission: Free

What: St. Patrick's Parade. Annual parade in beautiful downtown featuring entries from corporations, organizations, families and bagpipers.

When: 1 p.m. March 11

Where: Commercial Street, downtown

Phone: (620) 340-6430

Web site: www.emporia-mainstreet.com

Admission: None

What: Jazz Ambassadors Military Band from Washington, D.C. Hear the band that lead the parade in the last Presidential Inauguration.

When: 7:30 p.m. March 7

Where: 500 W. Central, El Dorado Middle School

Phone: (316) 321-3150

Admission: Free

What: Butler County Student Art Exhibit. Amazing works of approximately 400 high school and college students.

When: 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday March 8-29

Where: 110 N. Main, Courts Museum of Art

Phone: (316) 321-1212

Admission: Free

What: Spencers Theatre of Illusion. The Spencers are a magic sensation. Kevin and Cindy Spencer combine original theatrical elements with cutting-edge illusions, incredible lighting, special effects, beautiful scenery, music, movement and stage magic.

When: 7:30 p.m. March 10

Where: 18 E. 1st, Historic Fox Theatre

Phone: (620) 663-1981

Web site: hutchinsonfox.com

Admission: Adults \$25, \$23, \$21; children 12 and under \$21, \$19, \$17

What: Shawnee St. Patrick's Day Parade and Duck Race. Annual St. Patrick's Day parade with duck race as part of the celebration.

When: Parade at 1 p.m., duck race follows, March 12

Where: Johnson Drive, Monrovia Street to Barton Strett

Phone: (913) 631-6545

Web site: www.trshameri-cancub.net

Admission: Free

What: Shawnee St. Patrick's Day Parade and Duck Race. Annual St. Patrick's Day parade with duck race as part of the celebration.

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Admission: Free

Artist exhibits 'process'

Unique displays represent artist's 'experience' with art

By Katie Allen

Arts council director

Artist Becky Atkinson Exhibits Prints and Paintings at Arts Council and Memorial Hospital Cafeteria.

Process is not something that viewers usually think about when looking at a piece of artwork. But, for Atkinson, her work is only about that. In making artwork, Atkinson is interested in explor-

ing the process that leaves a mark for the object to retain, as in print-making.

While in college, Atkinson took her first art class studying sculpture and knew she was destined to become an artist. Inspired by "contemporary artists" like Janine Antoni, whose works "Chocolate Gnow" and "Lard Gnow" are internationally known for their process, which is how a work is made using techniques or methods. Antoni actually chews

on large blocks of material to make marks or leave impressions.

Atkinson defines her own work as non-representational and abstract. She is a responsive performance artist who has experiences with materials and then ascribes meaning to the work that results from those experiences.

"Creating art really excited me," Atkinson said. "My professor said that I had done well, and that encouraged me to continue my studies in fine arts. I come from a family of whom about half are artists, poets and fiction writers; and the others are doctors and engineers. I knew that my career would bring me to one of these disciplines."

"Among the Birds" is a series of digital prints and charcoal drawing that is the result of an artistic performance by Atkinson. Atkinson placed her handmade soap in a circle around her on the floor and then moved her arms around the circle while her fingers rubbed away at the soap.

The soap was later scanned digitally and then printed. Then Atkinson used charcoal to draw over the marks made from the printed rubbings. The rubbings seemed like bird forms to Atkinson.

"The marks left on the soap have a presence where the material rubbed away. My work is about the immaterial or things having a presence that relate to spirituality," Atkinson said. "The bird represents beings that are able to do that. They live in the sky, and I admire the spiritual gift they have and their ability to separate themselves from everything else."

Atkinson's interest in process and the immaterial also is evident in the works on display at the Dickinson County Arts Council's office. Four large works in the window have been done through the collagraph process, a print-making technique using low relief collage that provides texture to convey images and tones. Each of the four prints is different.

Atkinson sandwiched acrylic paints and sand between Plexiglas sheets as one process. She also used strings from unraveled fabric to create ripples when placed between sheets of Plexiglas. Atkinson placed each Plexiglas through a press. All the resulting works displayed the marks of the process and are apparent in the images left behind after the process.

Watercolor paintings made by using strings unraveled from previously made three-dimensional

If you go:

What: "Among the Birds" art exhibit

When: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through March 17

Where: Memorial Hospital cafeteria, 511 NE 10th, Abilene, Kan.

Admission: Free

What: Watercolor and collagraph works by Becky Atkinson

When: 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. through March 17

Where: Arts Council of Dickinson County, 207 NW Third Street, Abilene, Kan.

Admission: Free

fabrics also are on view at the arts council office. These are the print paintings Atkinson has done. The colors are ghostly and have a luminescence that Atkinson feels are indicative of the quality and presence of immaterial spirit.

The materials used to create the images in the work on exhibit at the arts council can be seen as the process of adding of materials to create, in contrast to "Among the Birds," where the images are about what has been taken away, the reductive process common in sculpture.

The meaning of her work is all about the idea of process and the mark left behind and how it serves as the memory of something that has happened.

Atkinson usually makes three-dimensional sculptural objects and is enthusiastic about the new work she has done in two dimensions. When creating her new artwork, she hopes that the end result will be that the viewer finds the work beautiful.

Atkinson, who grew up in Tennessee, received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from Washington University in printmaking and her master's degree in fine arts/studio arts from the University of Kansas. She lives in Salina and is the assistant education coordinator at the Salina Art Center.

Atkinson continues to pursue a career in the arts and plans in the future to work in a university art gallery, where she can contribute to education by focusing on content and presentation and have the opportunity to work with and promote contemporary art in a community setting.



Photo courtesy Dickinson County Arts Council
Becky Atkinson's "Among the Birds" resulted from soap rubbings and charcoal added to marks made from the rubbings.

Mozart's 'Flute' to play

By Jennifer Newberry

Kansas State University

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State University's McCain Performance Series will present Mozart's "The Magic Flute," performed by the Mozart Festival at 8 p.m. March 4 in McCain Auditorium.

The operatic story has a large cast of characters, including a dragon, a threesome of ladies, a

threesome of boy angels and a bully. It will be performed with a full orchestra and will be sung in German with English subtitles.

In the story, the handsome hero, Tamino, wins the heart of Pamina, the beautiful daughter of the feared Queen of the Night. The threesome of ladies, who are the queen's attendants, give Tamino the magic flute. The wizard Sarastro puts the lovers through trials of fire and water to

test their love.

A pre-performance lecture will be given by Rich Pittman, associate professor of music, at 7 p.m. in Room 204 in McCain. Pittman will discuss Mozart, the history of "The Magic Flute" and the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth.

Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.k-state.edu/mccain/> or by calling the McCain box office at (785) 532-6428 between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays.

Film series set in Abilene

Special to the Post

"Secret of Roan Inish," a film in the 2006 film series sponsored by the Arts Council of Dickinson County, will be shown at 2 p.m. March 19 in the parlor of First United Methodist Church, 601 N. Cedar, in Abilene.

"Secret of Roan Inish" is a family fantasy movie rated PG. It is about 10-year-old Fiona, who is sent to live with her grandparents in a small fishing village in Donegal, Ireland. She soon learns the local legend that an ancestor of

hers married a selkie — a seal who can turn into a human.

Years earlier, her baby brother washed out to sea in a cradle, and some think that he is being raised by the seals. Then Fiona catches sight of a naked little boy on the abandoned isle of Roan Inish, and takes a more active role in uncovering the mysteries which abound.

On April 16, the arts council will show "Hotel Rwanda," a dramatic history film rated PG 13.

Ten years ago, some of the worst atrocities in the history of mankind took place in the country

of Rwanda.

In only three months, one million people were brutally murdered. In the face of these unspeakable actions, an ordinary man — survivors — extraordinary courage to save the lives of more than 1,000 helpless refugees by granting them shelter.

The film series is free and open to the public. A discussion will be held after the movie for those wishing to participate.

For more information, contact the Arts Council of Dickinson County at (785) 263-1884.

JCHS to offer musical

Staff report

Junction City High School's drama department presents "South Pacific" at 7:30 p.m. March 16-18 in Warren Settles Auditorium at the school.

JCHS box office is taking orders for reserved seats. Ticket orders may be placed by e-mail at jchsboxoffice@yahoo.com or by phone at 717-4263.

This is the second year that JCHS will use reserved seating for the spring musical.

Senior citizens who hold USD 475 Golden Age Passes should call in advance to reserve their choice for reserved seats.

Tickets also will be available at the door for each performance on a space available basis. All seats are a suggested donation of \$4.

